

31st Fighter Wing: The U.S. Air Force's fighter wing south of the Alps

# THE VIGILEER

Vol. 51 No. 42

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Aviano Air Base, Italy

## Fly Bys

### Mandatory briefing

A "Spread the Word" briefing regarding the lieutenant force shaping board is from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Monday in the base theater. Attendance is mandatory for all lieutenants affected. Other company grade officers are highly encouraged to attend. For more information, call Capt. Erin Hancock at Ext. 8100.

### Gate closed

The Area One main gate will close from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Saturday for painting. Inbound traffic will be directed to the 31st Medical Group parking lot and outbound traffic will be directed through the bus route gate near the elementary school. For more information, call Ext. 6022.

### Promotions

The following Aviano senior master sergeants have been selected for promotion to chief master sergeant: **Luther Meitzner**, 31st Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, **Timothy Pratt**, 724th Air Mobility Squadron, **Lashawn Scott**, 31st Dental Squadron, **Gerald Thompson**, 712th Munitions Squadron, and **David Torelli**, 31st Maintenance Squadron.

## Air Force announces COMUSAFE retirement

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS)** -- The U.S. Air Force announced the retirement of Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong, commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe, Tuesday. As the USAFE commander, he also holds three other titles: commander, Allied Air Component Command Ramstein; air component commander, U.S. European Command, Ramstein AB, Germany; and director, Multinational Joint Air Power Competence Center, Kalkar, Germany.

General Foglesong, who has a doctor of philosophy degree in chemical engineering from West Virginia University, took command of USAFE in August 2003. He earned his wings at Columbus Air Force Base, Miss. His aviation career includes more than 4,350 flying hours in various aircraft, primarily in fighter and training assignments in the F-16, F-15, A-10 and AT/T-38. He has been



Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong

a commander six times. His staff tours include duty as assistant to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in Washington, D.C.; commander, 12th Air Force; commander, U.S. Southern Command Air Forces; deputy chief of staff for Air and Space Operations and vice chief of staff at Headquarters U.S.

**See Retirement, page 3**

## Veterans Day: Walking in the Shadows of Great Airmen

**By Gen. Robert H. "Doc" Foglesong**  
*Commander, U.S. Air Forces in Europe*

**RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany (USAFENS)** -- At 1100 on the 11th day of the 11th month, a combined col-

or guard representing all military services executes "Present Arms" at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Washington, D.C. As a bugler plays "Taps," a presidential wreath is laid as a tribute to our military veterans, those who have committed their lives to defend our great nation.

Our Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines have served and fought on many fronts in many theaters. I have incredible respect and greatly admire all of our veterans. The freedoms we enjoy today are a result of

**See Veterans, page 3**

**Vet Day hours:** The Commissary is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today. Grab N' Go is open from 6 to 9 a.m. and 8 to midnight today.

### 31st FW Sortie Board

**sortie:** n, a flight of a combat aircraft on a mission

	Hours	Sorties
31st FW goal	379.8	255
	<b>+266.7</b>	<b>+7</b>

Information current as of Thursday.



### Citizenship

One Aviano Airman was born an Italian, but since September, she can call herself an American citizen.

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### Firefighting

Aviano firefighters repel down a building, and learn other emergency response techniques during rescue training.

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### Retirement, from page 1

Air Force.

He has a number of notable achievements. During the general's tenure, USAFE stood up the Warfighting Headquarters and educational Centers of Excellence for Expeditionary Operations, Air Dominance and Joint Fires (the application of fire power). The general also led a robust theater security cooperation effort, with more than 60 countries visited and new relationships established in USAFE's area of operations. Since taking the USAFE flag, he instituted 15 Combat and Special Interest Programs that have significantly improved mission readiness and quality of life throughout the command.

In addition, in August he was inducted into USAFE's Order of the Sword. Touted as "Airman among Airmen and a leader among leaders" on the proclamation, the general's induction is the highest honor the Air Force

enlisted corps can bestow upon a person. He has authored nearly 60 published articles on scientific, leadership and military subjects. He has an honorary doctorate in strategic intelligence from the Joint Military Intelligence College, and is a member of West Virginia University's Academy of Distinguished Alumni and well as the Chemical Engineering Academy.

He will be succeeded by Lt. Gen. William T. Hobbins, deputy chief of staff, Warfighting Integration for Headquarters U.S. Air Force and acting chief of Warfighting Integration and Chief Information Officer, Office of the Secretary of the Air Force. General Hobbins was confirmed for appointment to the grade of general and assignment as USAFE commander on Oct. 28, 2005.

General Hobbins is a 1969 Officer Training School graduate and command pilot with more than 4,275 flying hours.

### Veterans, from page 1

the sacrifices and dedication to duty made by our comrades in uniform. America's veterans, past and present, have answered our nation's call for generations.

Although the Air Force is still a relatively young military service, throughout our history we have proven we're the world's most respected, all-purpose expeditionary air and space force. We continue to build

on the legacy created by our veterans.

World-class U.S. Air Forces in Europe members continue to promote an enduring peace in the U.S. European Command and other areas of responsibility. We represent the best of America and are poised to respond to our nations call at any time.

I urge you to set aside time on 11 Nov to honor

our veterans' service and dedication. It is with a deep sense of gratitude that I am thankful daily for their commitment and service. And to the great men and women of USAFE, thanks for continuing the legacy of excellence through your readiness, responsiveness, and commitment to service for our nation and the ideals America represents globally.

### Aviano Airmen of the Week



Brig. Gen. Robert Yates presents a wing coin to Airmen 1st Class Elizabeth Stewart (left) and Nicole Banta (right) after they spent the day as his shadow.

**Name:** Airman 1st Class Elizabeth Stewart  
**Unit:** 31st Fighter Wing, chaplain assistant  
**Hometown:** Cambridge, Md.  
**Family:** David (husband), and expecting first child

**Hobbies:** Photography, traveling, cooking and spending time with my husband

**Why joined:** I was motivated to join because of my husband's service and his faith in my ability to succeed in the military.

The education benefits and personal growth that I could only get from the military were other reasons why I joined. But most of all there was nothing more I wanted besides to serve my country.

**Name:** Airman 1st Class Nicole Banta

**Unit:** 31st Medical Support Squadron, medical logistics journeyman

**Hometown:** Klamath Falls, Ore.

**Family:** Mom, Stepdad and sister

**Hobbies:** Traveling, taking photos and reading

**Why joined:** I wanted to experience something new and exciting.

# It could save your life

## *Aviano motorcycle riders must follow the rules*

**By Tech. Sgt. Carole Steele**  
*31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs*

No one wants to be a statistic. Especially when it involves a motorcycle and hundreds of yards of pavement at eye level.

Yet, after an accident-free summer, Aviano riders tallied three major accidents with injuries in the past three weeks.

In the Air Force, these statistics aren't just numbers. Each represents a valuable member of the family whose life can be devastated by the effects of an accident.

To minimize these effects, extra care and attention is needed when riding a motorcycle. Likewise, the Air Force requires its members to take extra steps before allowing them to ride.

As part of Project SMART, all riders in the Aviano family must have a U.S. driver's license with motorcycle endorsement to even begin the process of becoming properly certified to ride here.

New arrivals with only the endorsed U.S. license must take the three-day Basic Riding Course. "This training does a lot; it helps them learn physically. I personally feel that hands-on training is best – giving them the tools to ride safely," said Ms. Lia Scandola, Aviano's Motorcycle Safety Program coordinator for the past 12 years.

New arrivals who have already taken a BRC still must take the one-day Experienced Rider's Course before riding

at Aviano. "During that course, they receive information on the local conditions and get a little refresher," said Ms. Scandola.

The one-day ERC is also required of all riders every three years.

Once endorsed here, Aviano's nearly 200 certified riders must attend mandatory briefings every six months. At these briefings, Ms. Scandola passes on riding tips and information, especially seasonal items.

"These are important refreshers," said Ms. Scandola. "I feel good telling them the things they need to look out for – maybe they'll remember part of it; maybe I will save one of them."

Yet there are times when riders who have all the proper training, apply it, and wear the proper attire still come face to face with the unexpected.

"You can do everything right and something can still happen," said Ms. Scandola. "But if you have the tools and you are very experienced, you can prevent an accident, because you have been taught how – you have been trained and retrained and retrained."

If worse comes to worst and a rider has an accident, being in compliance with Air Force Instruction 91-207 by wearing the proper protective attire can help minimize the consequences of meeting the ground suddenly.

Air Force riders are required to wear a DOT approved helmet, full-fingered gloves, sturdy footwear (recommend over

ankle), and long sleeve shirts and long trousers. A brightly colored or contrasting vest or jacket should be worn during the day and a reflective vest or jacket should be worn when riding at night or during inclement weather.

These requirements are designed to help the member physically, but sometimes the physical impact isn't the only effect of an accident. A military member who rides without the proper training and endorsements or breaks local traffic laws could face other consequences.

"Whenever a member is killed or seriously injured, meaning, for instance, misses duty for more than 24 hours or has a likelihood of a permanent disability, whether from a motorcycle accident or otherwise, there is a requirement for a Line of Duty determination to be accomplished," according to Maj. Glen L. Funkhouser, Jr., Aviano's Deputy Staff Judge Advocate.

The result of this LOD determination may impact the member's potential pay and benefits, to include disability retirement pay, regular pay, extension of enlistment, veterans benefits, Survivor Benefit Plan, and Basic Educational Assistance Death Benefit.

"Aviano riders need to understand the risk of riding and, if they take the risk, at least be totally in compliance with the requirements," Ms. Scandola said. "Have the required training, wear all of the proper protective equipment, and make sure you follow the law."

### ***Project SMART***

### ***Motorcycle Safety tips***

**Be visible:** Remember that motorists often have trouble seeing motorcycles and reacting in time.

**Dress for safety:** Wear a quality helmet and eye protection, bright clothing and a light-colored helmet, leather or other thick, protective clothing, choose long sleeves and pants, over-the-ankle boots, and gloves.

**Apply effective mental strategies:** Constantly search the road for changing conditions, pretend you're invisible, and ride extra defensively.

**Know your bike and how to use it:** Know how to handle your bike in various conditions. Get formal training and take refresher courses. Contact your Unit Motorcycle Coordinator or call the Safety Office at Ext. 7476 for course applications.

**Remember:** People driving cars often don't see motorcycles. Even when drivers do, chances are they've never been on a motorcycle and can't properly judge your speed.

For more information, visit [www.msf-usa.org](http://www.msf-usa.org).



Photo by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti

### **Combat Education**

Brig. Gen. Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander, congratulates and hands out wing coins to the Educational Developmental and Intervention Services staff. EDIS received 100 percent compliance during an inspection from the Department of Defense and the Department of Defense Dependents Schools.

## Aviano members negotiate tight turns during defensive driving course

By Airman 1st Class Sarah Gregory  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Whether you're driving an armored vehicle in the desert or dodging a careless motorist, knowing how to avoid threats on the road can save your life. That's why driving instructors from the U.S. Air Forces in Europe personal security office at Ramstein Air Base, Germany held a defensive driving course for Aviano members Nov. 3-4.

"The course isn't the typical driving class taken to help reduce points on your license or insurance costs," said Special Agent Tom Odgers, 501st Detachment Office of Special Investigations. "This course teaches high-speed, highly technical driving designed to help drivers escape from danger or threats."

About 24 people went through the class, learning everything from steering wheel management and weight thrust of the vehicle.

"These tactics teach drivers how to use the weight of the vehicle to their advantage, whether it's avoiding a target or using the car to push past a vehicle trap," explained Agent Odgers.

Students were also taught how to listen to the language of a vehicle.

"This is all about listening to the tires and the engine and learning when to slow down around corners," Agent Odgers said.

Each student had the opportunity to take their classroom

lessons behind the wheel. One technique called surprise drills required students to press the gas while an instructor who was controlling the wheel blocked their view with a piece of cardboard in the windshield. When they reached the desired speed, the instructor would tell the student to take the wheel and drop the piece of cardboard, allowing them to see the road and the obstacle course. The student had to quickly negotiate the situation and avoid hitting any of the cone obstacles.

"This maneuver is done to simulate being in 'the zone,' which is when your concentration isn't on the road. You know you were driving in the zone when you arrive at your destination with no idea of how you got there," Agent Odgers said. "Surprise drills are the toughest part of the course because they are the most realistic."

The exercise also uses another key element to teach evasive techniques.

"Shuffle steering teaches students to look not at an obstacle, but where they want the vehicle to go," said Agent Odgers. "You do this because you automatically steer in the direction your eyes are looking."

Teaching about 25 classes a year, the instructors were invited here by Aviano's OSI detachment.

"We try to have them come out every year or whenever we have a major turnover in personnel because the people they teach are wing leadership and their spouses, drivers for wing leadership and distinguished visitors, or people who are going down range," said Special Agent Adam Grado, 531st OSI detachment.

**Closed:** The Finance Office will be closed at 11 a.m. Thursday for an official function. For emergencies, call 335-560-1241.

### Project Wizard presents children's book week

By Tech. Sgt.  
Jerome Baysmore  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Aviano Community children can help create magic in the base library.

Monday through Nov. 20 is Children's Book Week. To celebrate Project Wizard, the base library is encouraging children to submit a report or critique on their favorite book or story.

"We're not looking for children to send in book reports because this is a fun thing," said Ms. Lenore Shaprio, Aviano Library

director. "We are encouraging children to express themselves and tell us why they liked the story and why they think other kids might enjoy reading that same book."

The staff requests that all entries be limited to approximately 250 words. The stories will be posted in the children's area of the library and also on the 31st Services Web site throughout the year, as space permits.

Entries may be submitted at the library circulation desk until Nov. 30, and entries must include a name, phone number or e-mail address.

### Congrats Triple Nickel

Congratulations to Maj. Paul Mur-Gray, Capt. Scott Walker, Capt. Aaron Saul and 1st Lt. Benjamin Couchman, 555th Fighter Squadron, for winning Friday's crud tournament at the La Bella Vista Club.

Crud is a billiard game played by Air Force members. The game uses the cue ball and one of the striped balls and does not use pool cues. A player on one team, the server, grabs the cue ball and attempts to hit the striped ball. Another player on another team, the blocker, has to protect the striped ball by distracing the server. If the server hits the striped ball into a pocket, the blocker is "killed." A team member can be "killed three times before he's out of the game. Once all teammates are killed, they lose.



# Airman receives American citizenship

By Senior Airman Colleen Wronek  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

An Aviano Airman can now call herself an American as well.

Airman 1st Class Sonia Magagnin, 31st Comptroller Squadron special action technician, received her U.S. citizenship Sept. 23 during a ceremony at the U.S. embassy in Rome.

"It felt very good to get my citizenship. It was a nice experience," she said. "My family was able to come down to Rome and I was chosen to read the oath of allegiance in front of everybody."

Airman Magagnin was the only Air Force person out of 15 military members to get her citizenship that day. The rest were Navy and Army personnel.

Originally from Vittorio Veneto and married to an Air Force member, Airman Magagnin was working as a secretary here and started thinking about opportunities in the military. She went to Aviano's Air Force recruiter and discovered she had to visit the Military Personnel Flight and apply for a green card and receive a social security number. "As soon as the green card and my social security number arrived I took the ASVAB and received a medical evaluation," she said.

Airman Magagnin said she had never been to the states before, except for basic training and technical school. She got assigned to Aviano through the joint-spouse program. "I feel very lucky to come back," she said.

Last year she applied for her American citizenship through the MPF.

"Before I joined the military, I didn't think about my citizenship, but after basic training and 'tech school' I wanted to get it," she said.

Airman Magagnin and her husband are planning to retire from the Air Force.

"You can join the U.S. military as a foreign citizen, but in order to re-enlist you have to get your citizenship."



Photo by Senior Airman Colleen Wronek

Airman 1st Class Sonia Magagnin, 31st Comptroller Squadron special action technician, assists a customer. Airman Magagnin can call herself an American citizen since she received her citizenship Sept. 23 at a ceremony in the Roman embassy.

In addition to her primary duties, Airman Magagnin also acts as an interpreter. She helps her fellow Americans talk to Italians and is often called to translate courts-martials.

"She's very outgoing, energetic and willing to go the extra mile to make sure the customer is helped," said Tech. Sgt. Brian Jackson, 31st CPTS customer service NCOIC and Airman Magagnin's supervisor. "She's a quarterly award winner, below-the-zone recipient and, working full time with her husband deployed, she managed to take the citizenship test and become an American citizen."

**Construction:** The new post office piazza is off limits from Dec. 5 through Feb. 15 due to construction. Info call Ext. 5758.

## Upcoming Project CHEER events

The purpose of Project CHEER is to create hope, energy, enthusiasm, and recreation for Aviano's single and unaccompanied members. For information on events and how to get involved, stop by the community center or log on to the Services webpage <http://www.31svs-aviano.com>.

**Merry Movie Magic** - Army Air Force Exchange Service is hosting a free movie night at the base movie theater Thanksgiving evening. The movie will be "Transporter 2" and starts at 7 p.m. All ID card holders receive free entry, a free popcorn, and a free soft drink.

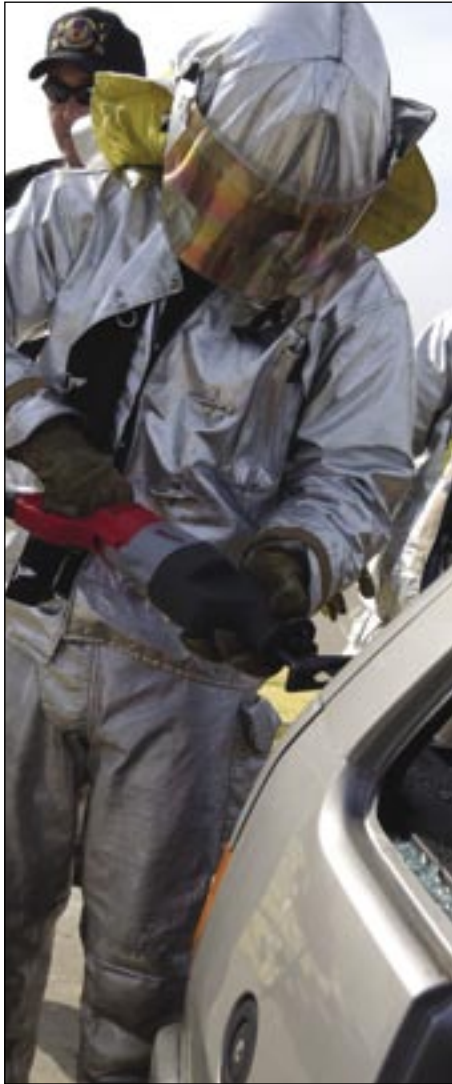
**Basketball Tournament** - The Dragon Fitness Center is hosting a 3-on-3 basketball tournament Nov. 19. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

**Trout Fishing** - A trout fishing trip is from 8 a.m. to noon Nov. 19. For more information, call Outdoor Recreation at Ext. 8623.

## Women's Bible Study

The Protestant Women of the Chapel offers a variety of Bible studies for women from 9 to 11:30 a.m. Wednesdays in Bldg. 168, behind the Child Development Center in Area One. The PWOC's next monthly meeting is 6:30 p.m. Monday. A children's program is provided during all gatherings.

The PWOC is a women's group that is designed to reach out to women in the chapel community. This program gives women a chance to connect with one another as they also strive to grow closer to God. The PWOC participates in a variety of spiritual retreats and conferences in the local area and in the European Theater. For more information, e-mail Laura Knight at [lauraknightpwoc@hotmail.com](mailto:lauraknightpwoc@hotmail.com) or call 0434-56-5313.



Photos by Staff Sgt. Bethann Caporaletti  
An Aviano firefighter receives auto extrication training. The training was conducted by instructors from the 38th Construction and Training Squadron at Ramstein Air Base, Germany.

## Aviano firefighters train

# The climb to

By Airman 1st Class Sarah Gregory  
31st Fighter Wing Public Affairs

**T**hey can be seen rappelling off the side of buildings and gathering in shiny silver clusters as they take apart a vehicle. They rescue us from burning buildings and trapped vehicles. They are Aviano's newest Rescue Technicians, and they are the cream of the crop.

Twenty firefighters from the 31st Civil Engineer Squadron recently completed the three-rescue technician training course, certifying them as capable for rescue work.

"Rescue teams are the ones that go in and search during building fires and in accidents, pull people out of cars or aircraft," said Tech. Sgt. Jason Higgins, 38th Construction and Training Squadron and U.S. Air Forces in Europe fire academy instructor. "Firefighters are also Emergency Medical Training certified so they are pretty much the first medics on-scene as well."

The rescue technician course is an accredited course firefighters can use in the civilian sector as well.

"This training is an augmentation course for basic firefighters," explained Sergeant Higgins. "It offers in-depth training and teaches instant management systems, which show firefighters how to handle anything from the smallest to the largest accidents."

The training also covered confined space rescue techniques, technical rope rescue and automobile extractions.

"This course has really expanded my learning base," said Airman 1st Class Andrew Valler. "Now I'm capable of handling auto and aircraft accidents and I am a more valuable asset to the fire department. The training is very competitive, so I was really lucky to have gotten in."

Aviano sponsors a rescue technician class every two years so

more firefighters can

"It's a requirement base," said Master Sergeant. "You have to have two and one for backup. They have the better because they're on TDY."

Besides certifying, conducting the training

"Hosting the training they can use the training base," explained Sergeant. "They have the materials they already have."

Getting a slot in for many firefighters

"They have to be said Sergeant Diaz. You're top dog. It's



**Above:** Two firefighters participating in auto extrication training.

**Left:** Aviano firefighters participating in a training exercise to pull people out of vehicles for people during

**Right:** Senior Airman Andrew Valler, 31st Civil Engineer Squadron firefighter, performing a high-angle rescue as part of the rescue



for ...

# the top

get certified.  
nt to have so many rescue personnel on  
gt. Lupe Diaz, 31st CES assistant fire chief.  
two rescue teams of three – one as primary  
Right now we have 12, but the more you  
use people are always deploying or going

g a large number of firefighters at once, con-  
at Aviano also has another purpose.  
ining here allows [the firefighters] to see how  
techniques we're showing them at their own  
rgeant Higgins. "They learn how to use the  
dy have at hand to get the job done."  
the rescue technician course is a coveted spot  
s.  
e knowledgeable in a lot of different areas,"  
"If you're in rescue, you know your stuff.  
the position everyone strives for."



firefighters prepare to receive rescue re-

efighters lift the roof off a car while  
uto extrication training. Rescue teams  
of cars and buildings as well as search  
g a building fire.

irman Thomas Carey, 31st Civil Engi-  
refighter, propels down a buliding dur-  
e rescue exercise. The exercise was a  
e technician course.





# Flybys: Community Information at a Glance

## Vet clinic hours

The Aviano Veterinary Clinic is closed today and Monday. It will resume normal hours Nov. 15.

## Spouse-it-up

The Family Support Center is hosting Spouse-it-up bowling for turkeys at 10 a.m. Wednesday at the Aviano Bowling Center. The event is open to all Aviano spouses and children are welcome to attend. For more information, call Ext. 5407.

## Barber shop closure

The Area F barber shop in the base exchange is closed Sunday and Monday for renovation. The facility will reopen for business Tuesday with new management and a new look. The Family Hair Care in the Area One mini mall is open noon to 5 p.m. Sunday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday.

## Closed

The 31st Medical Group is closed today. Extended care

hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday in the Family Practice Clinic in Area One. To obtain an appointment during extended care hours, call 0434-30-5000.

## Postal Annex

The Postal Annex is closed Saturday for relocation to the old post office across from the base theater and next to the food court.

## Dorm BBQ

Aviano first sergeants are hosting a dorm barbecue from noon to 6 p.m. Thursday at dorms 1424 and 254.

## Theme contest

The Annual Awards Committee needs a theme for this year's banquet on March 3 in the La Bella Vista Club. The committee is hosting a contest to select the theme that best reflects the event's role of recognizing and honoring the best military members and civilians. The theme will be incorporated into the entire evening. Last year's theme

was "Excellence in all we do." Theme submissions must be received by Nov. 18. To submit a theme, e-mail Master Sgt. Dan Borkowski at daniel.borkowski@aviano.af.mil.

## Holiday bazaar

Holiday shoppers can get an early start at the holiday bazaar at La Bella Vista from 3 to 7 p.m. Nov. 18, 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Nov. 19, and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 20. A variety of vendors will be selling items including furniture, leather goods, jewelry, paintings, wine and cheeses, crafts and grandfather clocks. Call Ext. 4303 for more information.

## DJ battle

The Aviano Community Music Club is hosting a Project CHEER battle of the DJ's from 7:30 to 11:30 p.m. Nov. 18 in the Community Center. Featured disc jockeys include DJ Irko, Da Soul Man, and Harbor Entertainment. For more information, call Master Sgt. Luis Adams at Ext. 7835.

## First aid

The American Red Cross is hosting a Community First Aid and Safety Course from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Family Support Center conference room #3. The all-day class covers adult, child and infant CPR and first aid basics. The cost is \$35. To sign up or for more information, call Ext. 5576.

## Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month. Events for the month include Great Plains Native American Dancers Wednesday at noon in the BX and 6 p.m. at the Community Center; and a Native American story hour and crafts Nov. 21 in the base library. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Fawn Runs After at Ext. 4418 or Senior Airman Matt Frerichs at Ext. 7750.

## Plywood cards

Celebrate the holiday season by decorating a holiday card made of plywood. Cards will be displayed for the base

to see and the best cards will receive cash prizes. Cards must be completed by Nov. 30 so winners can be announced Dec. 1 during the wing tree lighting ceremony. Supplies and equipment are available at the Self Help Store at Ext. 5711. Interested squadrons, organizations, or individuals should call Brian Colonna at Ext. 5960.

## Thanksgiving buffet

The La Bella Vista Club is hosting Thanksgiving buffets at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Nov. 24. Seating is limited and tickets must be purchased in advance. For more information, call Ext. 4303.

## Musicians needed

The gospel service is in need of a musician for the adult and youth choirs. This is a contracted position. Interested members must submit a sealed bid by Nov. 18 to the main chapel office. For more information, call Chaplain (Maj.) Shon Neyland at Ext. 5211.

## Chapel changes

The traditional 10 a.m. service at the base chapel has changed to a contemporary worship service. The contemporary service is designed with the younger adult and family in mind and features a live band, praise songs, dynamic teaching and multimedia presentations. It will be an upbeat and celebratory atmosphere that is informal, flexible, and relational. The 1 p.m. gospel service will move to the new base theater in Area F beginning Dec. 4 and the service time will change from 1 p.m. to 9:30 a.m. For more information, call the chapel at Ext. 5211.

## Combat Education

The University of Phoenix is waiving the application and resources fees for the first class registered for the month of November. Students must begin class during November and must complete the class. For more information, call Michele Rhoutsong at Ext. 5139 or e-mail her at Michele.Rhoutsong@phoenix.edu.

## Reel Times

**Today, 5 p.m.** - "Red Eye" Rated PG-13 - Lisa hates to fly, but the terror that awaits her on the flight to Miami has nothing to do with a fear of flying. Moments after takeoff, Lisa's seatmate menacingly reveals his plot to kill a rich and powerful businessman, and Lisa is the key to its success. Starring: Rachel McAdams, Cillian Murphy.

**Today, 8 p.m.** - "Flightplan" Rated PG-13 - Flying at 40,000 feet, a woman faces every mother's worst nightmare when her six-year-old daughter vanishes without a trace mid-flight from Berlin to New York. Starring: Jodie Foster, Peter Sarsgaard.

**Saturday, 7 p.m.** - "Flightplan" Rated PG-13

**Sunday, 7 p.m.** - "The Cave" Rated PG-13 - A rescue team is sent down into the world's largest cave system to try to find the spelunkers who first explored its depths. But when the group's escape route is cut off, they are hunted by the monstrous creatures that live down below. Starring: Morris Chestnut, Eddie Cibrian

**Wednesday, 11:30 a.m.** - "Brother Bear" Rated G - After a bear takes the life of an oldest brother, an impulsive younger brother kills the bear in revenge, only to be transformed into a bear himself. The middle brother, comes upon this bear and, thinking it killed his younger brother, vows revenge. Animated.

**Wednesday, 7 p.m.** - "Red Eye" Rated PG-13

**Thursday, 7 p.m.** - "Flightplan" Rated PG-13

(Titles and times are courtesy of [www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), and are subject to change.)



### Fly Bys

#### Local area events

**Friday-Sunday** - San Martino di Campagna is hosting a festival honoring their patron saint. The festival includes traditional theater, music and food.

**Sunday** - A Flea Market/Hobby Market is from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Muggia. For more information, call 040-33-60-340.

**Nov. 18-21** - A Christmas Fair is from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. at the Udine Fairgrounds. For more information, visit <http://www.udinefiere.it>.

**Through Dec. 10** - In Sarmede, near Vittorio Veneto, an exhibition of drawings for kids by artists from all over the world. Street theater displays are Nov. 27 and Dec. 4.

#### Soul and Strings

Enjoy blues, rock, funk and other guitar music during Souls and Strings 2005 at 9 p.m. Saturday in Comune di Cison di Valmarino.

#### Project SMART travel

When traveling around Europe, remember to avoid carrying handbags and fanny packs; they are easy targets for theft.

To avoid being a target of crime, try not to wear conspicuous clothing and expensive jewelry and don't carry excessive amounts of money or unnecessary credit cards.

Leave a copy of an itinerary with family or friends in case of an emergency.

Visit <http://travel.state.gov> to get the latest travel advisories in Europe. Maintained by the U.S. Department of State, the site offers a list of places suspected of anti-American activity, as well as other information for travelers.

## Spend a relaxing day in Trieste

By Airman 1st Class

Jason Gregory

31st Communications Squadron

Couch potatoes can unearth themselves for a nice getaway not far from home.

For those who want to explore, but don't want to venture far, there are many interesting day trips centered around Aviano.

My addiction to video games and sports doesn't get me out in the local community very often. This would normally be fine by me, but my wife loves to travel. This weekend I agreed to go with her to the town of Trieste. I set down my controller and picked up the car keys with grim determination to make my wife happy.

At only about an hour, the drive was surprisingly short and the road signs were easy to follow. Visitors can take the A28 to the A4 following the signs for Trieste.

The views of Trieste were breathtaking. The city is built into the side of a mountain, sloping directly down into the sea. There are several road-side areas where drivers can pull over to take photos.

We walked around the city for a little while and enjoyed a snack at a local café. The cafes were both clean and reasonably priced. After walking through the shopping area for awhile, we decided to go in search for Castello di Miramare. The castle was built for Archduke Maximilian of Habsburg, retired commander of the Austrian Navy, in the 19th century and erstwhile the emperor of Mexico who's demise is celebrated every May 5.

The castle was easy to find as several signs off of SS 251 led us straight to it. Pay parking is only a few euros, but we opted to park for free by the boardwalk and walk along it to the castle.

Castello di Miramare is as amazing from the outside as it is inside. Walking on the path toward the castle, visitors can see it looming before them on a rocky cliff overlooking the sea. The coastal path winds



Photo by Airman 1st Class Jason Gregory  
Trieste is built on a mountain side that slopes toward the sea.

through a lush surrounding of trees and foliage into a large courtyard. The courtyard is circular with many benches for visitors to sit and people watch or just to enjoy the scenery. Across the courtyard are stairs down to the castle docks. The views over the water are great and it's a nice place for couples to relax together and enjoy the day.

And of course, there is the castle itself, which visitors can get a closer look at for 4 euros per person. The inside, decorated with a nautical theme from the anchor print wallpaper to the ship-keel wooden ceilings, are wonderfully preserved. Of particular note are the detailed carvings in the staircase woodwork in the front entrance. Each room has historical facts and references to the castle printed in English.

Walking away from the castle, visitors can feel as though they have experienced a glimpse into Italian history, and only an hour's drive away from home. I would recommend this trip to everyone, but especially to the couch potato that gets in trouble for not going out enough. It was easy, painless and above all, it was enjoyable.

**Air Force travel online:** Visit [www.aftravelonline.com](http://www.aftravelonline.com) for information on airplane and train tickets and hotel reservations.



Courtesy photo

The gondola is part of **Venice's** heritage and is an excellent way to travel the historic water avenues.

## Information, Tickets and Tours

Upcoming tours from the Information, Tickets and Travel office include:

- Saturday - Pisa and Da Vinci Museums
- Saturday and Sunday - Wine tasting in Tuscany
- Nov. 19 - Guided Florence
- Nov. 19 - Guided Ljubljana, Slovenia and Postumia Caves
- Nov. 24-27 - Thanksgiving in Budapest, Hungary

- Nov. 26 - Guided Salzburg and Christmas Markets

- Nov. 26 - Guided Venice with gondola ride.

ITT escorts ensure the group arrives and departs from the destination as scheduled and will do everything possible to make the trip safe and comfortable. Escorts also provide general information about the area. Call Ext. 5072 or 5026 for more information.

## SNCO competes in world championship

*Courtesy 31st Fighter Wing  
Public Affairs*

One of Aviano's own recently competed in the Ironman Triathlon World Championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii.

Bryant Hafler, 31st Maintenance Squadron avionics flight superintendent, lined-up on the starting line Oct. 15 with 1,800 athletes from 50 countries and all 50 states to compete in one of the most grueling one-day sporting events in the world.

"The Ironman Hawaii championship is considered the holy grail in the sport of triathlon," Hafler said. "Triathlon is one of the few sports in which the professionals and the amateurs race together. I compare competing there, with someone who plays intramural football starting for the Oakland Raiders. You might not be the best that day, but it's a privilege to compete with such world-class talent."

The Air Force placed second behind the Army in the military team competition this year. Hafler placed 629th overall and was the first place Air Force competitor with a time of 10 hours, 28 minutes.

Hafler said what's next for him is sleep. "Looking back at my training log, it's been a really long year; I averaged 17 hours of training per week since January. This takes its toll mentally. "It's going to be nice to back off and relax this winter," he said. "Sticking with the training regimen would have been impossible without the support of my wife, Marianne, and my supervisor, Senior Master Sgt. Ed Shelton. I'd like to thank them and everyone else who supported my training and racing this year."



*Courtesy photo*

Bryant Hafler, 31st Maintenance Squadron, participates in a marathon as part of the Ironman Triathlon world championship in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Hafler took second in the military team competition.



*Photo by Staff Sgt. Michael Holzworth*

### Combat Fitness

Brig. Gen. Robert Yates, 31st Fighter Wing commander, leads the way while 1st Lt. Phillip Alvarez, 31st FW executive officer, calls cadence during a wing-wide formation Combat Fitness run Nov. 1.

## Fly Bys

### Fishing trip

Outdoor Recreation hosts a Project CHEER trout fishing trip 8 a.m. to noon Nov. 19. Deadline to sign up is Monday. Cost is €3.50 per kilogram for the fish caught with a no throw back rule and \$5 for transportation per person. For more information, call Ext. 8623.

### Varsity game

The Varsity Men's Dragon Basketball team is playing the Spilimbergo Italian Team at 8:30 p.m. Nov. 22 in the Dragon Fitness Center. People are encouraged to come out and cheer on the team. For more information on varsity sports, call the fitness center at Ext. 7574.

### Basketball

People interested in participating in the 2005-2006 Men's and Women's Varsity basketball teams can contact Neville Desgnach or Robby England at the Area Two Fitness Center or call Ext. 7574.

### Massage therapist

The Area Two Fitness Center offers massage therapy. Call Shawn Hamilton to make a 30-, 60-, or 90-minute massage appointment at 348-364-0684.

### Personal trainers

The Dragon Fitness Center is seeking nationally-certified personal trainers and fitness instructors to lead others into fitness. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

### Yoga class

Yoga classes are held from 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

### Step aerobics

Step aerobics are held from 7 to 8 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in the Dragon Fitness Center. For more information, call Ext. 7459.

# Real heroes are veterans

By Lt. Col. Pete Schuab  
31st Operations Support  
Squadron commander

Willie Nelson had a big hit a while back called "My heroes have always been cowboys." I can still remember listening to it on the radio over long summer weekends and thinking that the use of hero in the song seemed so overstated, almost demeaning, to what I felt a hero really is.

A dictionary defines a hero as "an illustrious warrior, or a person admired for achievements and noble qualities," and that's what I thought a hero was. Don't get me wrong, I liked Willie Nelson and the cowboy lifestyle ... pickups, hats, and two-step dancing. I also liked the Dallas Cowboys, but I couldn't think of a cowboy who was my hero.

Veteran's Day, which takes place today, began as a tradition in 1919 as Armistice Day to recognize those who died fighting in World War I. Congress broadened the scope of this recognition in 1954 to honor all veterans.

As we get ready to celebrate Veteran's Day, I get ready to say thanks to people that I think really are heroes. While I am especially thankful to those that served and ultimately gave their lives for the defense of our country in World Wars I and II, and other major battles in recent history, I also thank the heroes of today.

Who are some of these heroes? Well, Jason Quesenberry, Eric Bradenburg, and Keary Miller come to mind. Haven't heard of any of them? Well then, let me quickly fill you in.

Technical Sergeant Quesenberry was honored with a Silver Star for his efforts during an attack while assigned to an Army Ranger team in western Iraq. Even though one of his buddies was killed and three others wounded, he disregarded his own wounds to save his team's radio and GPS unit from a burning vehicle and used them to direct close air support. He then took care of his buddies until they were rescued.

Technical Sergeant Brandenburg was honored with a Silver Star for his courage during a three-day firefight in Iraq. With rocket-propelled grenades exploding overhead and an exploding artillery shell blowing him up in the air, he directed close air support missions while simultaneously fighting off the enemy.

Technical Sergeant Miller was honored with a Silver Star for his actions as a combat search and rescue team leader. Just before landing to pickup two U.S. servicemen, his helicopter received grenade and small-arms fire, severely disabling the aircraft and causing it to crash land. Despite intense enemy fire, Miller moved around the battlefield, crossing open areas on numerous occasions to assess and care for critically wounded servicemen. As the battle went on, he removed ammunition from the deceased and in multiple acts of extraordinary courage, proceeded through some of the day's heaviest rocket-propelled grenade, mortar and small-arms fire, while distributing the ammunition from position to position.

These three Airmen can be admired for their achievements and noble qualities.

Who else are some of today's heroes? They are all the Airmen that have joined our service after 9/11. What is impressive to me is that each of these young people knew they were entering a profession that was at war. Although they knew that they could, and probably would, look combat straight in the eye, they willingly took that risk.

Do you realize that since that tragic day, members of the U.S. Air Force have been awarded 147 Purple Hearts, 3,059 Bronze Stars, and 34 Silver Stars? I marvel at the enthusiasm I see in our young Airmen's faces and the motivation each of them exudes. They model our core value of service before self!

I hope each of you joins me in reflecting on the past and present and look for a hero to pat on the back on Veteran's Day. You won't have to go very far to find someone to thank and, who knows, maybe Willie will one day write a song honoring real heroes.



## The Cornerstone

An indispensable and fundamental basis

The Cornerstone Page is devoted to those who support junior enlisted, NCOs, CGOs and spouses. It's to share advice, ideas and opinions dealing with life in the Air Force and Aviano. It's also a forum to recognize those around us. The Cornerstone Page will also offer Air Force trivia and facts.

**Submission info:** We want to hear from you. Flex your writing talents and share your thoughts with us and the community.

**Commentaries:** Writers can send commentaries to [vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:vigileer@aviano.af.mil). Commentaries must be 500 to 700 words. Topics must be applicable to the Air Force, Aviano and appeal to the general public. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Kudos:** Aviano members can send kudos to [Vigileer@aviano.af.mil](mailto:Vigileer@aviano.af.mil) with the subject line "Kudos." Kudos can be submitted for appreciation, retirements, awards, good service, promotions and graduations. For questions or concerns, call the Vigileer at Ext. 7344.

**Deadline:** The deadline for submitting information is close of business Thursday one week prior to publication. Faxed articles will not be accepted by the staff. The public affairs office is in Bldg. 1360, Room 19.

